

ISSUE 1

01.03.2024

**accelerate**  
**futureHEI**  
supporting future focused higher education

**EXPLORING  
BEST PRACTICES**

**in University  
Transformation**

**A SERIES OF  
COLLABORATIVE  
WORKSHOPS**

**MUNICH  
MEET UP**

 Funded by  
the European Union

[www.acceleratefuturehei.eu](http://www.acceleratefuturehei.eu)

Introduction

01

PAGE 3



02

PAGE 5

Nurturing Entrepreneurial & Innovative Universities



03

PAGE 7

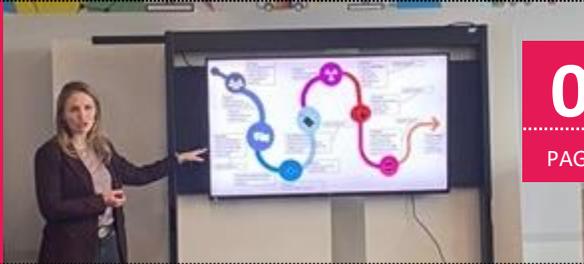
Exploring Best Practices in University Transformation



04

PAGE 10

A Series of Collaborative Workshops



05

PAGE 12

Assessing Entrepreneurial & Innovative Landscapes



06

PAGE 14

Munich Meet Up



07

PAGE 16

Navigating the Path



MEET THE PARTNERS

08

PAGE 18

UIIN

09

PAGE 19

Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

10

PAGE 20

TUM International

MEET OUR SISTER PROJECTS

11

PAGE 21

aUPaEU

12

PAGE 22

CATALISI



# Accelerate Future HEI

## Transforming European Universities into Entrepreneurial and Innovative Hubs



In January 2023, the Entrepreneurial & Innovative Universities Accelerator Program, known as Accelerate Future HEI, embarked on a transformative journey led by **University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN)** and with funding from the European Commission's Horizon Europe program.

This ambitious initiative, comprised of twelve European partners from eleven countries, seeks to revolutionise Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by equipping them with the necessary skills and capacities to drive institutional transformation towards entrepreneurship and innovation.

At its core, Accelerate Future HEI aims to develop and implement acceleration services tailored to the specific needs of each participating institution. Central to the project's methodology is a three-phase approach rooted in comprehensive gap analysis. This process delves into the context, strategy, goals, and current status of each HEI partner, providing an evidence-based foundation for identifying areas ripe for transformation. HEIs are guided through this process to develop their strategic vision and a series of activities designed to craft personalised Institutional Transformation Acceleration Projects (ITAPs). By engaging in this initiative, HEIs gain a unique opportunity to identify and address their key challenges, fostering the development of innovative solutions.





**Key to the methodology is the UIIN Entrepreneurial and Innovative University Framework©, which draws on over a decade of research and practical validation to define the essential elements of an entrepreneurial and innovative university – focusing on activities, mindset, organisational support and external ecosystem**

By leveraging this framework, Accelerate Future HEI facilitates HEI transformation by addressing the challenges and success factors associated with becoming more entrepreneurial, innovative, and engaged.

Crucially, Accelerate Future HEI recognises that HEIs cannot undergo this transformation alone. Thus, participating institutions receive personalised guidance and peer-to-peer support through access to coaches, thematic working group workshops, training courses, and cohort knowledge exchange events. This collaborative approach empowers HEIs to reflect internally on their goals while receiving external expertise to guide them through the implementation process.

The project consortium unites international experts on developing and supporting acceleration services, together with two established HEI consortia, one from the EIT HEI initiative (INCORE) and one from the

European University Alliance (E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup>) and EIT HEI Initiative (E.I.N.S). UIIN , together with TUM International and Momentum are referred to as acceleration partners to design and deliver the acceleration services and support the HEI testing partners as they implement their initiatives. Our consortium represents institutions across Europe, including the Outermost Regions. The diversity of the partners will enable the development of overarching services that can be applied in different contexts and enable the HEIs to impact their regions.

Accelerate Future HEI is committed to ensuring its impact through dedicated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as the dissemination of transformation stories and policy implications. By harnessing the collective expertise of its diverse partners, this initiative paves the way for European HEIs to emerge as entrepreneurial and innovative hubs, driving societal and economic progress across the continent.



# Nurturing Entrepreneurial and Innovative Universities

## A Closer Look at Accelerate Future HEI's Vision-Setting Process



**A key component of undertaking institutional transformation** is the ability to envisage the desired **future state to define and articulate the vision and strategies of HEIs**. The first phase of the project focused on activities such as **pre-scanning, asset mapping, focus groups, and vision workshops**, to set the foundation for a culture of innovation and transformation within the HEIs.

Pre-scanning and asset mapping serve as foundational pillars in this visionary process. By delving into internal documentation such as institutional vision and mission statements, strategic plans, and departmental policies, the HEIs gain a comprehensive understanding of their organisational landscape. Simultaneously, asset scanning and mapping exercises identify key resources within the institution and its local/regional ecosystem, laying the groundwork for strategic planning.

The subsequent desired future state focus group discussions provided a platform for internal stakeholders to envision the desired future state for institutional transformation. Each HEI brought together a group of HEI or Faculty leadership, middle management, Deans and Heads of Departments; Professional and administrative staff responsible for supporting activities and areas of external engagement,

innovation and entrepreneurship; and academic staff and researchers involved in entrepreneurship, engagement and innovation to engage in reflective dialogue, charting a course towards becoming more entrepreneurial and innovative.

Each focus group was facilitated by UIIN, who guided the HEIs through a structured canvas and work collaboratively to envisage how the different elements of the entrepreneurial and innovative university could look for the University. The approach was built on the UIIN Entrepreneurial and Innovative Universities Framework, to discuss various facets of transformation, including strategic vision and objectives in terms of activities across education, research, and valorisation; mindset of internal stakeholders; organisational support structures and services; and external support mechanisms and role within the ecosystem.





To further refine their vision, testing partners participated in a Vision workshop as part of the Cohort Knowledge Exchange events. Here, they delved deeper into the rationale behind their transformational aspirations, to formulate their Strategic Vision Statements, which encapsulate the aspirations and goals of each testing partner. By analysing the outcomes of these activities, UIIN provides tailored support to assist the partners in clarifying their desired future state and goals for institutional transformation.

These Strategic Vision Statements serve as guiding beacons, illuminating the path towards entrepreneurial and innovative excellence. Through a collaborative effort, HEIs articulate their purpose, vision, and strengths, setting a clear trajectory for their transformation agenda. Accelerate Future HEI's approach goes beyond traditional strategic planning.

**It encourages HEIs to reflect, collaborate, and innovate.** By helping institutions define their goals and navigate change, this initiative signals a shift towards more entrepreneurial and innovative practices in academia.



# Exploring Best Practices in University Transformation

Being one of the partners of Accelerate Future HEI, **Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences** (ViA) in Latvia aims to share valuable knowledge with partners and gain new experiences that will be useful for the university, the region, and the country.

The project has already inspired new events, for example, during ViA International week 2023, the ViA team led the panel discussion “University transformation experience”. It highlighted this topic and explored what other ViA partner universities have to say about their transformational experience.

The panellists discussed global events, how they are affected by globalization, and the consequences and threats of war, including the recent and still felt effects of COVID-19, rapid digitalization, generational changes,

and many other events that are rapidly taking place that are changing the world irreversibly. More than 60 lecturers, researchers, and cooperation partners from 15 countries and 21 universities attended ViA International Week “Future University.

Connecting regions”. Discussion focused on topics such as the University of the Future, resilience, sustainability, digitalization, experimental ways of thinking, as well as support for Ukraine.



**More than 60 lecturers, researchers, and cooperation partners from 15 countries and 21 universities attended ViA International Week “Future University. Connecting regions”**



The panel discussion “University transformation experience” fitted well into the theme of the International Week and gave the opportunity to hear the experiences, opinions and understanding of the nature of transformation in higher education from different universities. Representatives from 4 universities in 4 countries; Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences (Latvia), **University of Tartu Pärnu College** (Estonia), National Institute of Tourism & Hospitality Management (India), **Sankt Pölten** University of Applied Sciences (Austria) participated in this panel discussion and shared their

unique experience and ideas about the direction and need for transformation in different types of universities. During this discussion, we became acquainted with the experience of transformation of HEI institutions in various fields and various levels, and it gave us insight into how different examples of transformation can be, what are the good practices of universities and what obstacles universities face when they want to transform things and their operations and promote growth. Let us share some theses about the transformation potential and the main obstacles mentioned. .

## The panellists highlighted some **key changes that will shape the universities of the future:**



01

### **Digitalisation:**

As the catalyst for change, digitalization has revolutionized every aspect of our lives, and higher education is no exception. From online courses to virtual classrooms, technology has opened up new avenues for learning and collaboration. Universities need to embrace this digital revolution to provide students with flexible learning opportunities, global connectivity, and access to resources. However, this transformation requires careful planning and investment in infrastructure, training faculty, and ensuring equitable access for all students.

02

### **Generation changes:**

The current generation of students, often referred to as Generation Z, has grown up in a hyper-connected world. They are high-tech-thinking, value diversity, and seek practical, hands-on learning experiences. To meet their needs, universities must adopt innovative teaching methods, such as project-based learning, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary programs.

03

### **Thinking and habit changes:**

This leads to shifting pedagogical paradigms. The traditional lecture-based approach to teaching is giving way to more interactive and student-centred learning methods. Active learning techniques, flipped classrooms, and peer collaboration foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. This shift requires faculty members to become facilitators of knowledge rather than mere content deliverers. It also calls for a re-evaluation of assessment methods, emphasizing competency-based evaluations and real-world applications.

04

### **Teaching and learning changes:**

Students today value flexibility in their educational journey. Universities should offer modular programs, and personalised learning paths to accommodate diverse interests and career goals.

05

### **Industry collaboration:**

Collaboration with industry partners enhances the relevance of education by bridging the gap between academia and the jobs market. Internships, co-op programs, and industry-driven projects equip students with practical skills and increase their employability.





## Obstacles in the transformation process:

- 01 Resistance to change:**  
Change can be met with resistance, particularly from faculty members who are comfortable with traditional teaching methods. Overcoming this resistance requires fostering a culture of innovation, providing professional development opportunities, and recognising and rewarding forward-thinking faculty. It is a big challenge to explain why we need to change.
- 02 Financial problems:**  
The transformation process requires significant investment in technology infrastructure, faculty training, and student support services. Universities must seek creative funding strategies and partnerships to overcome financial barriers
- 03 Equity and access:**  
Ensuring equal access to digital resources and opportunities for all students is crucial. Universities must address the digital divide, provide support for students from marginalised backgrounds, and create inclusive learning environments.
- 04 External factors:**  
For example, change in the study area, in the jobs market. The challenge is to attract students for Master's level.
- 05 Bureaucratic processes** in universities and at the government level can slow down the transformation process.

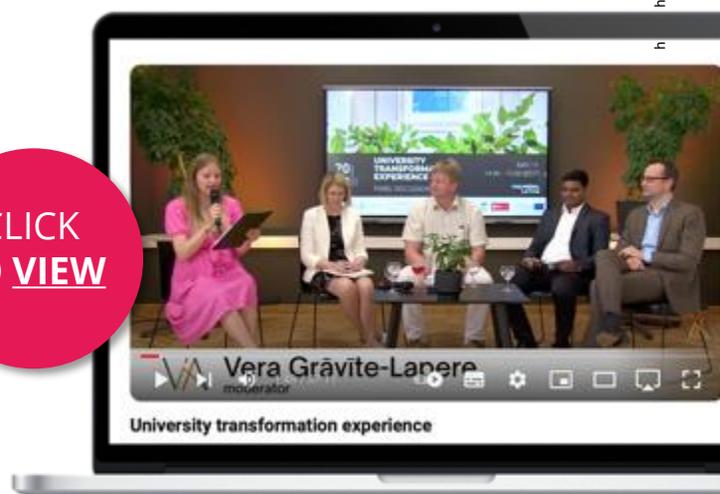
The main takeaway of the conversation was that transformation is our new normal and inevitable at all levels. You should be very flexible, fast thinking, and use multidiscipline and international approaches to transform and change.

**Iveta Putniņa** **Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences** lead for Accelerate Future HEI shares her thoughts: *“ViA highly values this opportunity to learn from the best in the field of entrepreneurial and innovative universities and to dive into the journey of transformational changes. We definitely choose to take this path one step at a time besides the professionals who can guide and support us. If we don’t sooner or later, we will end up with really dramatic changes in the higher education field which then are much more painful and difficult to absorb. We would like to provide the knowledge and experience about future challenges and opportunities for higher education, make a transformation in our university and create encouragement for other universities as well.”*

The transformation of universities in the digital era is an ongoing process that demands a proactive and adaptive approach. By embracing digitalization,

understanding the needs of the new generation, and reimagining pedagogy, universities can create dynamic, student-centric learning environments. Overcoming obstacles and leveraging preferences will pave the way for universities to remain relevant and provide quality education in the rapidly evolving world. This sets the scene for ViA in Accelerate Future HEI as it has to choose which Institutional transformation acceleration project to choose for the next phase. The full recording of the panel discussion is [available here](#):

CLICK  
TO VIEW



# A series of Collaborative Workshops

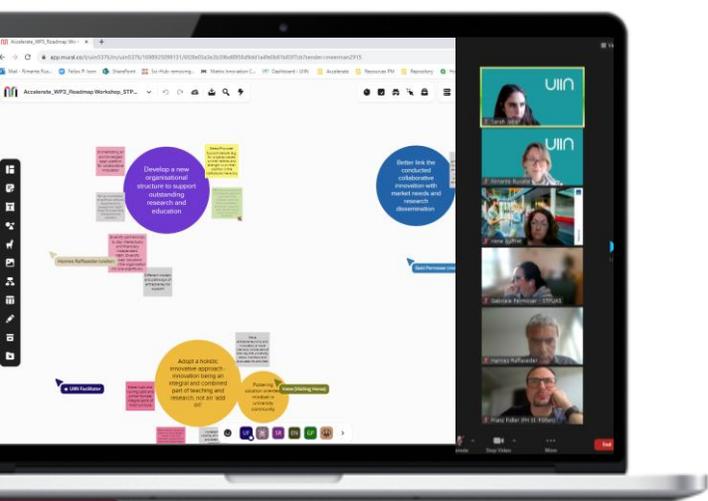
*In its first year, **Accelerate Future HEI** undertook a large number of workshops to include vision setting, policy, focus groups, road mapping and impact capturing. Here's a summary to highlight the scale and breadth of what we have achieved so far.*

## 9 Desired Future State Focus Groups involving 101 participants

As the first step, each testing partner worked to refine and articulate their vision and strategies regarding the desired future state of their entrepreneurship and innovation through a series of Focus Groups and Strategic Vision Statements.

## 9 Roadmap Workshops, 73 participants

Testing partners created acceleration development roadmaps towards institutional transformation for their HEI, tailored to their Strategic Vision Statements and current states through individual Roadmap Workshops.





## A Policy Workshop

Conducted by UIIN, the workshop included partners, representatives from sister Horizon projects, CATALISI, aUPaEU and other external stakeholders. The workshop introduced Accelerate Future HEI and provided an overview of the European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda. Collaborating via Mural, the participants had the opportunity to identify any gaps concerning the ERA policy agenda and see where universities need more support. Issues raised included clarity on who are the activities specifically targeting and the need for personalisation so that supports address the specific needs of each university as they differ from institution to institution. This includes the need for academic freedom, to allow institutions to implement policies that deliver the impact they need. Other points raised included the need for effective and strategic communications.



## An Impact Capturing Workshop

TUM International is leading monitoring and evaluation throughout the project and is responsible for continuously monitoring, capturing progress and evaluating the implementation of the acceleration services. At this workshop, partners were able to review the methodology in detail and discuss how to practically integrate the monitoring and evaluation methodology into their institutions.



# Assessing Entrepreneurial and Innovative Landscapes: A Survey-Based Approach

In the pursuit of institutional acceleration and transformation, it is crucial to **understand the current landscape** to determine existing **strengths, gaps and areas for improvement.**

To map the current landscape of external engagement, entrepreneurship, and innovation within the testing HEIs of Accelerate Future HEI, each HEI has undertaken a comprehensive survey across their institutions. This survey aims to complement existing data gathered through pre-scanning, asset mapping, and focus group discussions, providing tangible quantitative and qualitative insights to inform transformational roadmaps for each participating institution.

The central research question guiding this survey is: "What is the current status of external engagement, entrepreneurship, and innovation at the university?" By delving into this question, the survey seeks to gather quantitative data that aligns with the UIIN Entrepreneurial University Framework©, offering a structured approach to understanding the entrepreneurial and innovative activities within each testing partner university.

Implemented and analysed by UIIN, the survey was disseminated by each HEI among their internal stakeholders. Its focus was on collecting both quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive understanding of entrepreneurial and innovative activities, perceptions, and support structures within the universities.

**The central research question guiding this survey is:**

*"What is the current status of external engagement, entrepreneurship, and innovation at the university?"*

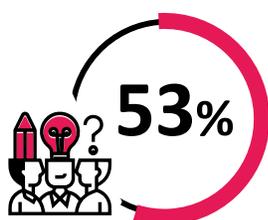




The survey was structured to cover various dimensions, including entrepreneurial activities, entrepreneurial mindset, organisational support, impact, and ecosystem. Each dimension aimed to capture different aspects of the university's engagement with external stakeholders, internal entrepreneurial culture, support mechanisms, and broader ecosystem interactions.

Moreover, the survey delved into respondents' personal visions and goals regarding their university's journey towards becoming more entrepreneurial. Demographic data was also collected to gain insights into the affiliations and perspectives of the respondents within the university community.

The survey garnered significant participation, with a total of **764 respondents** across the **nine testing partners**.



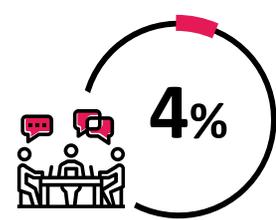
students group



academics/researchers



professional/administrative staff



faculty/university leaders

Following data collection, UIIN conducted an in-depth analysis of the survey results, producing individualised reports for each of the nine participating HEIs. Additionally, an aggregated analysis report was compiled, providing insights across all institutions.

In conclusion, the survey-based approach adopted by Accelerate Future HEI offers a robust methodology for assessing the entrepreneurial and innovative landscapes within universities. By gathering quantitative data and insights directly from stakeholders, this initiative aims to inform strategic decision-making and drive meaningful institutional transformation towards greater entrepreneurialism and innovation in academia.





## Munich Meet Up

The **3rd Transnational Project Meeting for Accelerate Future HEI** held in January 2024 was a sharing of ideas, workshops for innovation, and the next step towards redefining higher education.

The **two-day meeting brought together the nine testing partners and three acceleration partners** to reflect on their first year of collaboration and envision the next steps in supporting future-focused higher education institutions (HEIs).





Our TUM International hosts greeted us on arrival with Kathrin Albrecht leading a tour of the Munich Urban Colab, Munich's latest innovation hub. Project leaders UIIN presented an overview of the methodologies and outcomes of the key activities of the first year, specifically the Current State Analysis and the Roadmap Workshops facilitated by Despina Kortessidou, Rimante Rusaite and Dr. Sarah Jaber from UIIN, and Samantha Carty from Momentum for the HEIs to share their insights and feedback on the methodologies, events and communication strategies used during Year 1. This was important to review the key findings that have informed the first-year deliverables.

Project management and administrative aspects were covered, including a review of the first reporting period. The morning concluded with a mini-reflection workshop, allowing participants to share their views and feedback on Year 1 progress and the communication and dissemination strategies employed by partners.

After lunch and networking, the focus was on the development of Individual Transformation Action Projects (ITAPs), coaching sessions, and the schedule of training programmes available. TUM Int. reminded everyone of the importance of impact and evaluation as the ITAPs develop, highlighting the resources available to support the process.

A key element of the partner meeting was the Cohort Knowledge Exchange Event, which took the form of a lively interactive session facilitated by UIIN,

to ideate and co-create the framework for the ITAPs. Each testing partner presented their strategic vision statements and roadmaps they have developed so far, after which everyone engaged in the co-creation of ITAP templates, fostering a collaborative atmosphere before an enjoyable partner dinner.

For day two, the consortium was based at the TUM Campus Garching, where participants had the opportunity to explore the frontiers of technology and research. The group was treated to an engaging session with Christian Heckemann, CEO of GATE, who discussed the role of business incubators in supporting tech startups. The group then transferred to TUMint Energy Research GmbH for a session on living technology transfer and commercialising research results.

The goggle-wearing, lab tour, underscored the importance of bridging the gap between academic research and practical application, a vital component of future-focused higher education.

The meeting wrapped with a moment for reflection on the insights gained and connections made over the two days. The journey of institutional transformation ahead is about to bring many great ideas to fruition, thanks to the dedication and innovation of all those involved in the Accelerate Future HEI project. On behalf of the project, we would like to thank Dr. Georgeta Auktor, Kathrin Albrecht and Cara Knott from TUM International, for their expert hosting in Munich.



# Navigating the Path to Entrepreneurial + Innovative Universities: Accelerate Future HEI's Roadmap Workshops

As universities across Europe strive to enhance their entrepreneurial and innovative capacities, the **Accelerate Future HEI project** is at the forefront of guiding this transformation. **Building upon the foundational data and strategic visions** through the first phase, the project's development phase focuses on **crafting individualised acceleration development roadmaps for each participating institution.**

Thinking along the lines of becoming more entrepreneurial and innovative and reflecting on the desired future scenario, the key question is how to get there. UIIN guided each HEI through a tailored roadmap workshop, where participants engaged in a series of activities aimed at dissecting challenges, brainstorming solutions, prioritising actions, and mapping out comprehensive solution pathways.

During the Roadmap Workshop, internal stakeholders across each HEI, involving a mixture of leadership, professional and academic staff, and external stakeholders, were brought together to discuss their key challenges and ideate and prioritise solutions that could help them achieve their institutional transformation.



**Prior to the roadmap workshops, UIIN identified key challenges for each HEI based on the future state focus groups and current state survey results**

The workshops commenced with a review of the identified challenges and Strategic Vision Statements developed by the testing partners. Subsequently, through a voting session, workshop participants chose the most relevant and pressing challenges for them to address and to work on throughout their workshop. For each identified challenge, the aim of the activity was to identify potential approaches to address the selected challenges.

The starting point for brainstorming solutions was the selection of solutions from the survey report and the focus group report. Participants were asked to match the chosen solutions with the selected challenges. They had the opportunity to make the solutions more specific and brainstorm new solutions individually and collectively.

Sensemaking exercises further refined the prioritisation of solutions, considering factors such as implementation complexity and potential value creation. This strategic alignment enabled participants to focus their efforts on initiatives that promised the greatest impact.

A pivotal aspect of the workshops was the creation of solution pathways for chosen challenges. Collaboratively, testing partners outlined actionable steps and timelines, delineating short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives. Stakeholder engagement was encouraged throughout this process, enriching perspectives and ensuring comprehensive planning.

By the conclusion of the workshops, each testing partner emerged with a tailored roadmap towards institutional transformation. These roadmaps served as dynamic guides, shaping the trajectory of each institution's journey towards entrepreneurial and innovative excellence. However, many of these solutions remain complex and abstract, so the next steps will be for the testing partners to create their ITAPs, breaking their goals into concrete action plans where they will be guided to implement these plans.



As **Accelerate Future HEI** continues to unfold, the **insights gleaned from the roadmap workshops** will inform development of **ITAPs and guided strategic decision-making** to support their institutional transformation



# UIIN: A Decade of Pioneering University Transformation

With over 10 years of experience in the field of university-industry collaboration, we drive change in the higher education sector through research, training, institutional development and knowledge-sharing events. Together with our global community of innovative organisations, we break down silos between academia and the world to create impactful solutions for local and global challenges.

UIIN initiates and coordinates large-scale national and international research initiatives, engaging with our diverse, international community to exchange knowledge and advance the sector. We further design and deliver professional development for leaders, academics and professional staff to enhance the skills needed for collaboration and impact. Using proven frameworks, tools, and global insights drawing on our in-house research expertise UIIN provides evidence-based solutions and recommendations to enable organisations to become transformative drivers of change and create impact.

As a leader of Accelerate Future HEI, UIIN brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the project partners, to develop and test acceleration services to equip universities with the skills and capacity to drive their institutional transformation towards becoming more entrepreneurial and innovative. By leveraging UIIN's extensive knowledge, frameworks and resources, project partners can expect to receive comprehensive support and guidance as they work to create a more progressive culture within their institutions.

Since 2012, UIIN has been driving the transformation of the higher education sector. Its mission is to **make universities more innovative, impactful, and engaged** with their communities to effectively collaborate with external stakeholders.

UIIN supports a world-class global community of ambitious organisations that want to drive change across education, research, and societal engagement.



**UIIN**  
University Industry  
Innovation Network

# Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

**Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences** (ViA, Latvian: Vidzemes Augstskola) is a higher education institution in Latvia. Its vision is to be an international, regional and sustainable driver of the knowledge, research, and innovation community for the resilience and growth of future society. ViA promotes an entrepreneurial, inclusive, and intelligent knowledge society of the future at regional, national and international level.

ViA provides full academic (bachelor, master studies) and research cycle (Ph.D. programs, postdoctoral programs, student involvement in research), however at a small scale (around 700 students, 130 staff members, 20 full-time researchers). This gives it the advantage to follow closely the experimental changes in the system, analyse what works and what does not and why, and provide easy access to industrial and governmental partners. Current study and research activities are interdisciplinary: from society sciences fields (communication, media, governance, business, and tourism) and technology fields (information technologies, cybersecurity, virtual reality, smart technologies, mechatronics). ViA is testing different cooperation models with local secondary schools, companies, and governmental institutions.

Universities and higher education institutions have long been regarded as the cradles of knowledge and innovation. As we step into the future, the landscape of higher education is undergoing a profound transformation. With the advent of digitalisation and the changing expectations of the new generation, universities must adapt to stay relevant and provide an effective learning environment. This is why ViA was especially keen to be one of the nine HEI testing partners of the Accelerate Future HEI team who is working on supporting and enhancing the capability of higher education to undergo transformational changes.



CLICK TO [VIEW](#)



# TUM International

TUM International GmbH, based in Munich Germany is a leading consultant for, developer, and manager of scientific sites, innovation ecosystems, knowledge transfer and competence centres worldwide. TUM International was created in 2007 as a subsidiary of the Technical University of Munich (TUM), which ranks among Europe's most outstanding universities in innovation and research.



Our mission is to enable our partners to effectively engage with major global transformation processes by building strong innovation ecosystems and capabilities to explore novel, sustainable, and resilient development pathways. In this process, our customers benefit not only from our extensive network of public, private, and academic partners but also from our focus on excellence and deep expertise in systems of innovation.

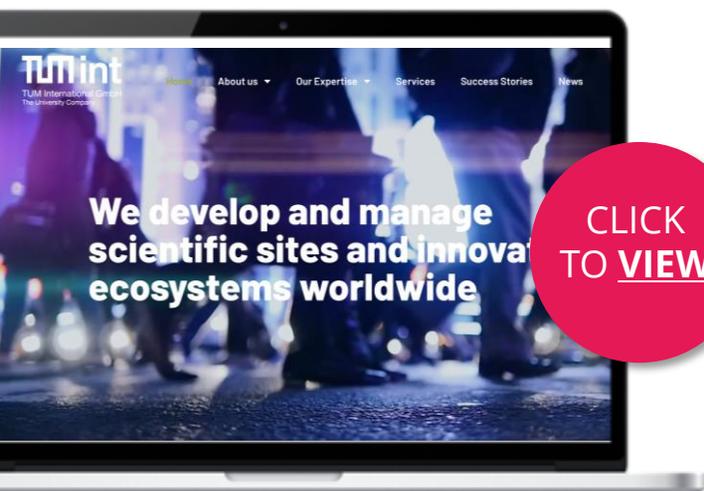
In our innovation ecosystem, we act as an intermediary, enabling the development and transfer of knowledge and ideas from academia and research into the marketplace. As such, TUM International also engages in technology development and transfer partnerships. In all our projects, we aim to achieve high societal impact by empowering our clients to promote education, research, entrepreneurship, and systemic collaboration across stakeholders in an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive way.

## **Our Expertise - We provide holistic and customised services in the following areas:**

- Sustainable development of integrated academic and scientific sites
- Innovation ecosystems— concepts, enabling mechanisms, and development
- Knowledge and technology transfer and management of innovation-oriented projects
- Mentoring programs and qualification measures

TUM International strongly believes in the critical role that entrepreneurial and engaged universities can play in advancing societal transformation. Building on TU Munich's excellence in education, research, and societal engagement, TUM International adapts this model to the specific local requirements of its university clients. The goal is to ensure that universities become key drivers of knowledge creation and socio-economic development in the respective region.

Within Accelerate Future HEI, TUM International is one of the three acceleration partners. Our main role is to design a monitoring and evaluation methodology for entrepreneurial universities and to guide the acceleration partners through the process of monitoring their own progress within the next years of the project. This will be done through regular impact workshops which are based on the co-creation approach



# Introducing our Sister Project

## aUPaEU

**Accelerate Future HEI is a Horizon Europe project funded under the HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-51 call. This call funds the development of Acceleration Services in support of the institutional transformation of Higher Education Institutions.** Throughout the project, we will be collaborating with sister projects, which are funded under the same call, working towards shared objectives.

The aUPaEU( A University Partnership for Acceleration of European Universities) project revives the ancient Greek concept of the agora by empowering European university alliances and their Higher Education Institutions with **acceleration services**, open science practices and gender equality. Five academic institutions are contributing to the project, coming from EPiCUR and Unite!, European alliances under the European Universities Initiative.

An agora is a shared space where all stakeholders can offer and use acceleration services and contribute their knowledge and expertise. Through collaboration and knowledge exchange, aUPaEU seeks to drive high-impact Research and Innovation advancements to foster an inclusive and transformative future for Europe.

The project aims to provide Higher Education Institutions with cutting-edge acceleration services to ignite innovation through teaching and digital tech. The project will develop methodologies, sustainability

plans, coaching services and tangible digital technologies using an **acceleration agora** to achieve their institutional transformation goals. It is hoped these will revolutionise research practices with transformative and widening solutions in capacity sharing, open science, societal outreach, and gender equality. The goal is to widen participation and drive groundbreaking advancements in record time.

aUPaEU - a University Partnership for Acceleration of European Universities - is an EU-funded project, in the framework of the European Research Area. Like Accelerate Future HEI, aUPaEU is also a Horizon Europe project. We look forward to collaborating with them as we undertake a shared vision to support institutional transformation in European Higher Education Institutions. To learn more about the objectives and work being carried out by aUPaEU visit the project Website and for the latest news and updates follow on LinkedIn, X, YouTube channel & Zenodo community.



# Introducing our Sister Project

## CATALISI



## CATALISI

Catalysation of institutional transformations  
of Higher Education Institutions through  
the adoption of acceleration services

Throughout the project, we will be collaborating with sister projects, which are funded under the same call, working towards shared objectives. CATALISI is one of those sister projects. It is also an EU-funded project consisting of 11 partners from 8 EU Member States. The consortium gathered in Rome on the 26th and 27th of January to kick off the project that will last 36 months. The project aims to help and support Higher Education Institutions (HEI) to successfully implement a strategy and individual pathway for institutional transformation. The project will analyse how the governance of Higher Education Institutions can be changed, considering the governance as a way in which societal and state actors intentionally interact to transform Science Technology and Innovation systems, by regulating issues of societal concern.

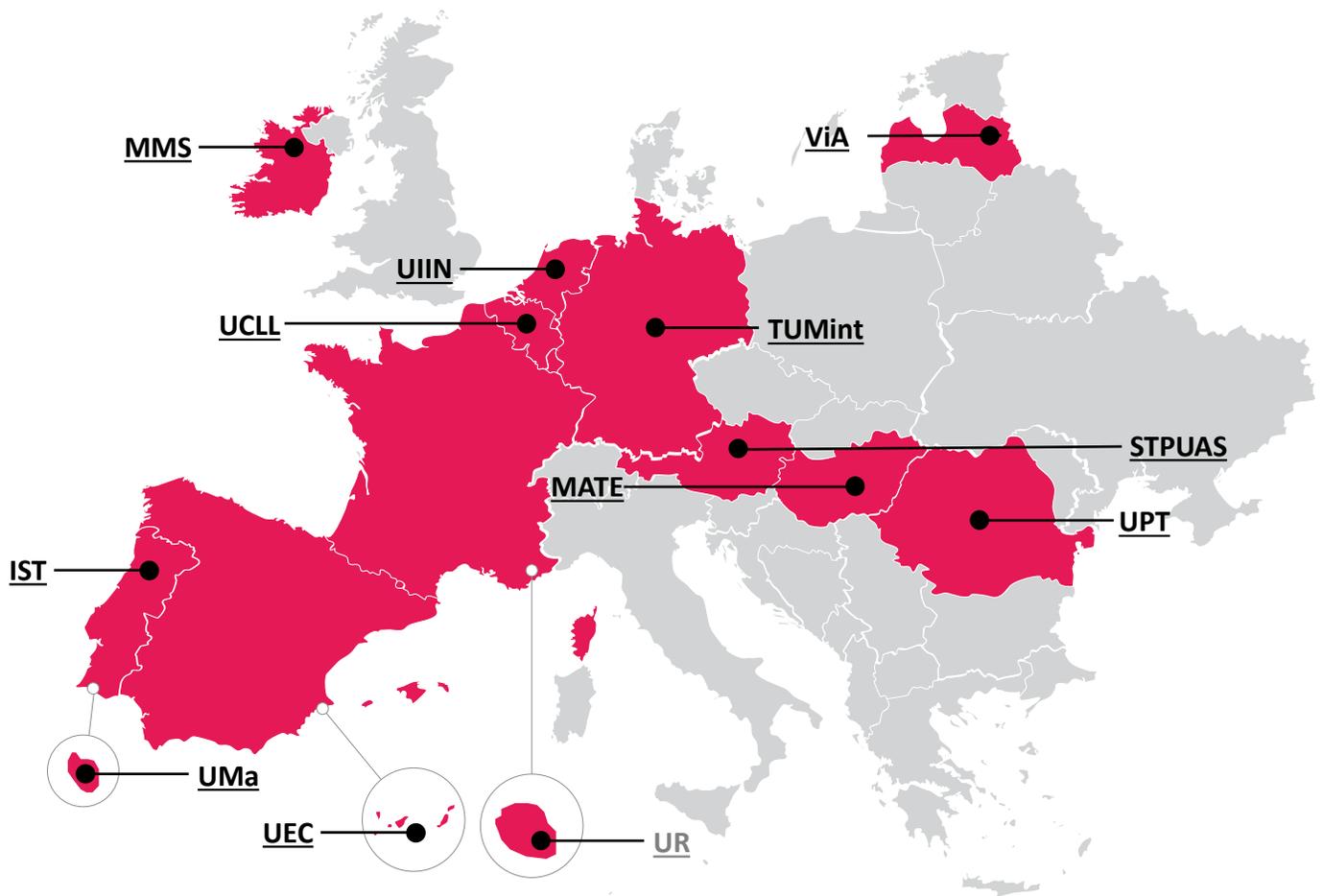
While the first day of the kick-off meeting focused on sharing and accessing the expertise of the partners, division of the tasks and timeline of activities throughout the project, the second day was dedicated to discussions on stakeholder engagement.

CATALISI will provide 7 acceleration services in 3 domains and split its efforts between the implementors and facilitators. In addition to the acceleration services, CATALISI will initiate a dedicated space on its website for the exchange of knowledge, matchmaking and funding opportunities as well as gathering inputs from implementors and third parties (Learning Hub).

To boost the impact of the project and apply CATALISI findings wider, the project will engage in creating a Community of Practice composed of a group of people who share expertise and experiences in institutional transformation in HEI.

Learn more about the project and the partners who will participate and are in charge of the successful implementation of the project [here](#)





# accelerate future HEI

supporting future focused higher education

Follow our journey



To Learn more visit the project [www.acceleratefuturehei.eu](http://www.acceleratefuturehei.eu)

## Contact Us

Rimante Rusaite  
Senior Project Officer- UIIN  
E-mail: [rusaite@uiin.org](mailto:rusaite@uiin.org)  
Web: <https://www.uiin.org/>

